

bill, as you will find out later, has been reduced from a fiscal note of \$2 million a year down to \$130,000 a year, and included in the \$130,000 a year, as I understand it, is \$21,000 for the people just to run the program. That is a new board that we are creating and et cetera, and et cetera, and et cetera. Now, I guess what I am trying to say is I don't feel that this is the time, before we have seen the budget, before we know what is going to happen in the future, to endorse a program that is going to have, as amended, as I understand it, a \$130,000 impact for 200 students at this time when the facts show that a program exactly or similar to this is being offered to 300 students and it's self-supporting. Then we'll take that one more step. Out of the 9,000 students that would be eligible for this program, out of 9,000 someone is going to, by a criteria, pick only 200 and that is based on the county population of the students. So I've got a feeling right now that, based on that supposition, where the students are going to come from. So I say to you, let's do not adopt the committee amendment, the amendment to the committee amendments and the fact I have an IPP on the bill because I don't think we should start so early creating new programs, new bureaucracies, a whole new board, a whole new commission, at this time. And, as I say, I am not opposed to gifted students but, at this time, I am opposed to starting a new program and at that fiscal cost. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Haberman. I would remind you that we are talking now about the amendments to the committee amendments. Senator Scofield, did you wish to talk about that? Senator McFarland, did you wish to talk about the committee amendments...the amendments to the committee amendments?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Senator Haberman gave a long talk about the merits of the bill itself. We are actually considering the amendments on the criteria. I think it would be advisable for the body to vote in favor of the amendments which, in fact, specify the criteria more clearly. And then once we get the criteria established and the amendments adopted, then we can debate the merits of whether we should, in fact, vote in favor of advancing LB 158. I think that's the time to do it.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Thank you. Senator Haberman, did you wish to speak about the amendment to the committee amendments further? That's about the criteria.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I would just like to call to the attention of the body that once